ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Data for presentation in real time, such as a video or audio sequence, is available on different encoded versions having different degrees of compression. In order to assess, during transmission of one version, the feasibility of switching to another version, given the data rate known to be available at the time, a server computes, for a candidate version, in respect of at least one portion thereof that has not yet been sent, the maximum value of a timing error that would occur if any number of portions starting with that portion to be sent at the available rate. The selection of the same or a different version for continuing transmission is taken in dependence on a comparison between the computed error and the current state of a receiving buffer. Error values may be computed in advance for a range of transmitting rates, stored and later retrieved for use in estimating an error value corresponding to the actual transmitting rate.

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